

Livingston County

Soil & Water Conservation District

January—June 2014 Newsletter

<http://www.swcd.mo.gov/livingston>

2014 Conservationist of the Year



John Cramer (left) accepts award from Board Treasurer Larry Davies

John Cramer moved back to the family farm in 1988 after graduating college. John and his wife Janet own and operate a 2600 acre row crop and 400 acre pasture operation. Their operation consists of corn, beans, wheat and beef cattle. 100% of their corn is waxy food grade corn and 1/3 of their bean acres are for soybean seed for Monsanto. 95% of their hill ground is tile terraced or waterway ter-

raced. They have actively maintained their conservation practices and have most recently spent time cleaning out waterways. John uses precision farming by implementing grid soil sampling for his fertilizer application and GPS mapping for planting/spraying/harvesting. The Cramer family has been diligent at conserving soil throughout the years - John's father was also a recipient of this award 18 years ago and John & Janet's children, Caitlyn and Garrett are very involved in the farming operation as well learning about soil conservation right beside their parents. In addition to staying busy with the farming operation, John is President of the Southwest School Board, Trustee of the Faith Baptist Church and a Township Board Member.

Congratulations to the Cramer family and thank you for your cooperation in conserving Livingston County's soil and water!

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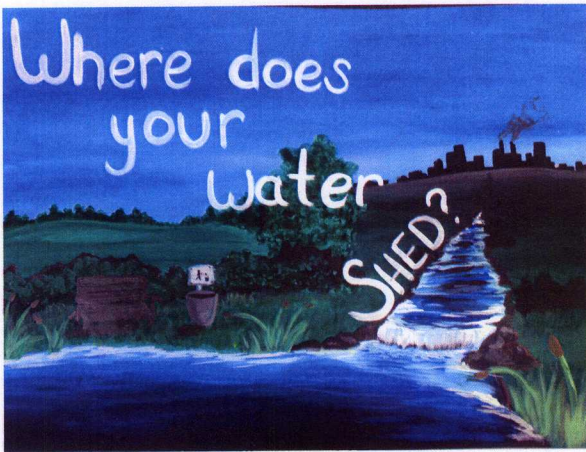
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Annual Meeting held February 17, 2014

The Livingston County SWCD Annual Meeting was held February 17, 2014 at the M.W. Jenkins Expo Center.

Dinner was followed by the presentation of the Conservationist of the Year Award to John Cramer. Also during the meeting, awards for the poster contest were presented. The 2014 county winners in the 4th-6th grade category were: Hallie Jones (5th grade, Central School), William Kieffer (6th grade, Chillicothe Middle School), Creighton Eyring (6th grade Chillicothe Middle School). The 2014 county winners in the 7th-9th grade category were: Addie Ficken (7th grade, Bishop Hogan), Sydney Baxter (7th grade, Bishop Hogan), Riley Brobst (7th grade, Bishop Hogan). The 2014 county winners in the 10th-12th grade category were: Katlin Hightower (12th grade, Southwest High School), Cheyenne Jordan (12th grade, Southwest High School), Brittany Stanfield (12th grade, Chillicothe High School).

Recognition was given to Caela Ashford for having the 10th-12th grade winning poster at the 2013 State Poster Contest. Her poster advanced to the national contest. Recognition was also given to Rebecca Pitchford for being the area speech contest winner. Rebecca delivered her winning speech to those gathered at the annual meeting.



Caela Ashford's State Winning Poster

From the 2013 Poster Contest



Rebecca Pitchford delivering her speech.



Overall County Poster Contest Winners

Livingston County SWCD

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2014 Poster Contest Results

This year we had a total of 392 posters entered in our annual poster contest. We always get judges from the community to judge the posters so that we don't have to make the hard decisions! All posters received a blue or red ribbon according to their merit. For the 4th-6th grade category, the posters were separated by class and cash awards of \$15, \$10 and \$5 were given to the top three posters in each class. The first place poster from each class was judged again to determine the top posters overall for this age category. The overall county winners received a plaque and cash award which were presented at the Annual Meeting in February – 1st place received \$50, 2nd place received \$35 and third place received \$15 (see Annual Meeting article for overall winners). Following are the top three posters from each class in the 4th-6th grade category:

Bishop Hogan 4th Grade

- 1st Connor Hobbs
- 2nd Ellie Barnett
- 3rd Carson Crawford

Bishop Hogan 5th/6th Grade

- 1st Josie Reeter
- 2nd Eli Cross
- 3rd Mason Baxter

Chula School 3rd/4th Grade

- 1st Ben Pithan
- 2nd Parker Savage
- 3rd Mathew Meservy

Chula School 5th/6th Grade

- 1st Samuel Pauley
- 2nd Lucas Greener
- 3rd Sam Meservy

Southwest 4th Grade

- 1st Ashlynn Brummet
- 2nd Kailey Hulett

Southwest 5th Grade

- 1st Patrick Warren
- 2nd Lincoln Sampsel
- 3rd Lily Webb

Southwest 6th Grade

- 1st Caroline Warren
- 2nd Rebecca Allred
- 3rd Julian Hughes



Chillicothe Middle 1st Hour

- 1st Hunter Keithley
- 2nd Macy Gutshall
- 3rd Montana Hall

Chillicothe Middle 2nd Hour

- 1st Emma Bernskoetter
- 2nd Kenadi Munson
- 3rd Isaak Rasche

Chillicothe Middle 5th Hour

- 1st Creighton Eyring
- 2nd Cameron Dudley
- 3rd Jonathan Evans

Chillicothe Middle 7th Hour

- 1st Kaelynn Mae Evans
- 2nd Christina DeJesus
- 3rd Jhonna Goodwin

Chillicothe Middle 8th Hour

- 1st William Kieffer
- 2nd Ali Kromeich
- 3rd Shelby Foster

Central School

5th Grade Mrs. Hardy

- 1st Cheyanne Mace
- 2nd Felicity Manley
- 3rd Seth Hansen

5th Grade Mr. Robinson

- 1st Emma Rule
- 2nd Summer Drake
- 3rd Cayla Cliff

5th Grade Mrs. Smith

- 1st Emery Evans
- 2nd Caleb Vance
- 3rd Dyson Mentzer

5th Grade Mrs. Taylor

- 1st Hallie Jones
- 2nd Landon Swift
- 3rd Megan Sisson

5th Grade Mrs. Vinson

- 1st Ava Gibson
- 2nd Connor Keithley
- 3rd Dan Hoel

Central School

4th Grade Mrs. Beck

- 1st Abby Hecker
- 2nd Graci Maupin
- 3rd Allen Bloss

4th Grade Miss Bulva

- 1st Leah Lourenco
- 2nd Morgan Biswell

3rd Maria Rodriguez

4th Grade Mrs. Chambers

- 1st Marcella Epperson
- 2nd Kathryn George
- 3rd Abigail Burton

4th Grade Mrs. Gott

- 1st Amanda Brade
- 2nd Kinley Eyring
- 3rd Libby Washburn

4th Grade Mrs. Montera

- 1st Quincey Jessen
- 2nd Nathan King
- 3rd Destiny Webb

4th Grade Mrs. Neal

- 1st Skyler Murphy
- 2nd Jaxon Albertson
- 3rd Emmalee O'Dell

5th Grade Mrs. Good

- 1st Allison Daniel
- 2nd Carter Allen
- 3rd Spencer Riddle

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Deadline for Cost-Share Practices!

The deadline to process payments for FY14 cost-share is June 15, 2014. If you have a practice that has been approved and is not constructed yet, you need to **make sure the practice is built (for a pond this would include seeding and fencing) and copies of your paid receipts turned into our office by June 10 , 2014** in order to give us time to do the checkout and submit your payment request to Jefferson City. Please contact our office if you have concerns about meeting this deadline!



Welcome!

We are excited to have a new member on our team at the Livingston County Field Office. Welcome to Tyler Gordon who is the new Livingston County SWCD Technician!



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Rental Equipment

	DEPOSIT	IN COUNTY COST	OUT OF COUNTY COST
Bale Mulcher	\$100	\$75/Day (cost-share) \$150/Day (non cost-share)	Not rented out of county
Cultipacker	\$100	\$3/acre rolled once \$5/acre rolled twice	\$5/acre rolled once \$7.50/acre rolled twice
Haybuster Drill	\$100	\$7.50/acre	\$7.50/acre + \$25/day
John Deere No-Till Drill	\$100	\$8.50/acre	\$8.50/day + \$25/day
Pasture Aerator	\$100	\$75/day	\$7.50/acre + \$25/day
Pasture Harrow	\$100	\$75/half-day (office hours) \$150/day	\$175/day
John Deere Tractor (6190R)	\$500	\$25/Meter Hour \$150 or 6 hour minimum	Not rented out of county
Root Plow	\$25	No Charge	No Charge
Soil Tester	\$50	No Charge	No Charge

Please stop by our office or call 660-646-5687 ext. 3

Rental Agreement will need to be signed and payment made before equipment leaves our lot.

Bring your hitch pin!

ALL renters must make deposit AND prepay for estimated usage.

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Federal EQIP Program Now Offers Wildlife Fund Pool

For several years Ag operators have utilized the Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP), administered by the Natural Resources Conservation Service. The EQIP program has been instrumental in assisting both crop and livestock production farmers with cost share assistance to help implement agriculture practices such as terraces, cover crops, nutrient management, grazing systems and manure management facilities to name a few. As the face of the typical farm landowner has changed over the years to include absentee landowners, who also have an interest in forestry or wildlife management, so has the EQIP program adjusted to best meet the needs of this dynamic.

Four years ago EQIP added a Forestry Fund Pool to accommodate landowners interested in managing their woodland resource. Ten percent of the state's EQIP funding was set aside for landowners with this area of interest. The process is two-fold. Landowners first apply for funding to hire a consulting forester to conduct an inventory and develop a management plan. The next year they can apply for funding to implement the plan recommendations. The forestry funding has been well received.

This year EQIP has added a new Wildlife Fund Pool. This program takes the place of the old Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program or WHIP which was popular for many years under the previous farm bill. This program will run very similar to the old WHIP program with all the familiar wildlife practices available for use. The EQIP-Wildlife program will focus on quail/grassland bird habitat, pollinator's, and declining communities (prairie, glade, savanna, bottomland hardwoods). There will also likely be a priority for work done within Comprehensive Conservation Strategy areas. Farm Bill language requires at least five percent of EQIP funds will be directed to the wildlife fund pool. At this time it is unsure if there will be an Area fund pool or if all applicants will compete statewide as program policies are still being worked out.

A sign-up is currently underway for interested landowners. Landowners will need to stop by their local county NRCS office and sign a 1200 form by April 18th. The next step is to contact their local Missouri Department of Conservation Private Land Conservationist for a site visit and plan development. From that point, applications will be ranked and landowners notified if they were successful.

For more information pertaining to the EQIP forestry or wildlife programs contact your local NRCS office or MDC Private Land Conservationist.

~Scott Roy
MDC, PLC



MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION

SCOTT ROY
PRIVATE LAND CONSERVATIONIST

GRUNDY CO USDA/NRCS
3415 OKLAHOMA AVE
TRENTON MO 64683

Office: (660) 359-5685 ext 114
Fax: (660) 359-3249
Scott.Roy@mdc.mo.gov

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NRCS and MU Hosting Free Soil Health Expo August 13-14

The USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and the University of Missouri are hosting a free Soil Health Exposition August 13-14. The exposition will be at MU's Bradford Research and Extension Center (4968 Rangeline Road), about six miles east of Columbia.

The two-day exposition will feature vendors, tours, demonstrations and presentations by farmers who have successfully incorporated cover crops into their operations.

The exposition will feature an open admission, so participants may attend as few or as many of the sessions as they choose. Events will be occurring from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m. each day. Topics will include: climate variability; understanding soil data; economics of cover crops; cover cropping and improved infiltration; effects of Glyphosate on soil biology; the latest soil health field equipment; field demonstrations; soils exhibits; and soil pits and properties. Equipment and seed dealers also will be present. A detailed agenda will be available later.

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USDA-NRCS SOIL HEALTH INFOGRAPHIC SERIES #005

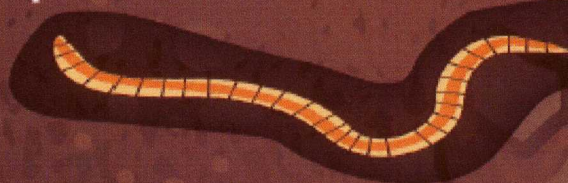
what's underneath



Earthworm populations consume

2 tons

of dry matter per acre per year, partly digesting
and mixing it to form *healthy* soil



Source: Earthworms a Penn State publication by Sjoerd Duiker, Assoc. Prof. of Soil Management
and Richard Stehouwer, Assoc. Prof. environmental Soil Science



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Want more soil secrets?
Check out www.nrcs.usda.gov

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Upcoming Events

Holiday Office Closings

5/26/14 Memorial Day

Events

May 9 & 15 — Partner-In-Education
Field Trips



Livingston County SWCD

1100 Morton Parkway

Chillicothe, MO 64601

Questions or Comments?

Phone: 660-646-5687 ext. 3

Email: kristen.lourenco@swcd.mo.gov